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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our defender, we call to You in prayer. Our Nation cannot prosper without Your watch care and Your gracious providence. For Your loving kindness and tender mercies, we praise Your Name.

As our Senators grapple with the complex challenges of our time, be for them a shepherd who leads and guides. Lead them to live with a generous spirit that comes from a confidence in Your abiding presence. May they walk in the path of gratitude, meditating on Your words and glorifying Your Name. Thank You for being our refuge and defense. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 19, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of

Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following any leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business. During that period of time Senators will be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2832, which is the trade assistance legislation as tied in with the GSP bill.

At 5:30 there will be a cloture vote on the motion to proceed. We hope to get consent to begin consideration of the bill after the vote.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended until 4:45 p.m. today so that Senators can speak regarding the tributes they wish to make to former Senator Charles Percy of Illinois.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RENO AIRSHOW TRAGEDY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I was saddened to hear of the terrible accident on Friday at the Reno airshow, which killed 10 people and injured many more. I just received word an hour or two ago that another person has died in

the hospital. My heart goes out to those who were hurt, and my thoughts are with the families of those who lost their lives when the pilot of a World War II airplane crashed into spectators.

I commend the many first responders who rushed to the scene Friday. Their quick thinking and skillful assistance saved lives. While this crash was devastating—and it was—it is fortunate and I am glad the pilot took quick action to avoid additional loss of life by avoiding a grandstand packed with thousands of spectators.

My four grandchildren and my son attended the show on Thursday. My oldest grandson Mitchell was at the event with a Scout Troop on Friday, just hours before this terrible accident. Although officials are investigating the crash, initial reports indicate that a piece of the plane's tail broke off prior to the accident.

I hope this terrible event, the first of its kind in this Nation, will not deter people from attending airshows in the future. Thousands of people enjoy these shows every year. The late Senator Ted Stevens attended this show many times and told me it was the best of its kind. I will continue to monitor the investigation, of course.

REMEMBERING SENATOR CHARLES PERCY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this weekend Senator Charles Percy of Illinois, the progressive Republican and father-in-law of Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER, died at age 91. He had been failing for some time, and I maintained contact with Senator ROCKEFELLER about his wife's father. I didn't know Senator Percy—only by reputation. But I do know he was an independent thinker and a moderate who always put his country before party. The Senate could use more of his brand of pragmatism today.

Senator Percy was a proponent of tough environmental regulations and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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